



Morning Alert - Friday, October 6, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

HEADLINES

Morning news

NHK gave top play to a report that a man turned himself in this morning in Ibaraki for setting fire to his house and killing five members of his family. All commercial networks led with reports that Japanese-born British author Kazuo Ishiguro has won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Top stories in national dailies included Kazuo Ishiguro's Nobel Prize (Asahi, Yomiuri); Party of Hope leader Koike's indication of the possibility of forming a coalition with the LDP (Mainichi); an increasing number of small businesses closing up shop because of a lack of successors (Nikkei); and an interview with Prime Minister Abe in which he stated that he will ask the Japanese voters in the upcoming election to decide who is capable of dealing with the growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula (Sankei).

INTERNATIONAL

Rift remains between President Trump and Secretary of State Tillerson

Asahi reported on an apparent rift between President Trump and Secretary of State Tillerson that was disclosed by an NBC report saying that the Secretary was on the verge of resigning this past summer due to policy differences with the President. The paper wrote the GOJ is becoming increasingly concerned about the apparent rift within the Trump administration despite the Secretary's immediate denial of the report. According to the paper, there is concern within the GOJ that the Secretary's positive stance on the idea of seeking dialogue with North Korea could undermine policy coordination between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea to ratchet up the pressure on Pyongyang. According to an unnamed MOFA source, the ministry is making arrangements with

the U.S. side to invite Deputy Secretary of State Sullivan to visit Tokyo in mid-October to reconfirm the unity between the U.S. and Japan.

Yomiuri, Nikkei, and Sankei also reported on the apparent schism between President Trump and Secretary Tillerson, with Yomiuri saying that there is speculation among U.S. media outlets that Ambassador to the UN Haley is being considered as a potential successor to Secretary Tillerson.

Ivanka Trump to visit Japan

Asahi wrote that Assistant to the President Ivanka Trump will visit Tokyo in early November, just ahead of President Trump's arrival in Tokyo, to attend this year's World Assembly for Women in Tokyo (WAW!) conference. The paper wrote that Ivanka Trump will participate in an event for female entrepreneurs that will be co-hosted by WAW! and the World Bank on Nov. 3. The paper added that arrangements are being made for the President to play golf with Prime Minister Abe on Nov. 5 and hold a bilateral meeting with the prime minister on Nov. 6.

SECURITY

U.S. approves missile sales to Japan

Sankei wrote that the Department of State announced on Wednesday that it has decided to sell 56 AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles to Japan for an estimated \$113 million. This is the USG's first approval of arms sales to Japan under the Trump administration. The paper wrote that the planned sales are expected to enhance the ASDF's defense capabilities amid the growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Hagerty expresses eagerness to visit Hiroshima, Nagasaki

Asahi wrote that Nagasaki Mayor Taue and Deputy Hiroshima Mayor Tani disclosed on Thursday that Ambassador Hagerty expressed eagerness to visit their cities during their meeting with him at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on Thursday. According to the Nagasaki mayor, the Ambassador expressed eagerness to visit in response to the mayor's request for the Ambassador and President Trump to visit Nagasaki and Hiroshima when the President visits Japan in November. The mayor said that the Ambassador told him that he thinks the President will appreciate the invitation, and that visiting the A-bombed cities is part of his job as ambassador and will be an important opportunity for him.

POLITICS

Koike rejects Maehara's call for her to run in Oct. 22 election

All papers reported on a meeting on Thursday between Tokyo Governor Koike and Democratic Party President Maehara, during which she declined a request from Maehara that she run in the Oct. 22 House of Representatives election as the leader of the Party of Hope. Koike said she will hold talks

with the other founding party members about who the party should endorse as its candidate for prime minister. The two politicians reaffirmed their commitment to work together in the battle to defeat Prime Minister Abe. Maehara told reporters after the meeting that the Party of Hope will need to decide on its prime ministerial candidate swiftly if Koike does not run because the upcoming election will determine who should be the next prime minister. Koike hinted at the possibility of forming a coalition with other parties, including the LDP, after the election, by saying that “oil and water mixed” when the LDP chose Tomiichi Murayama, the former leader of a socialist party that is now called the Social Democratic Party, as prime minister in 1994.

